Assessment of Classroom Learning

Classroom Assessment

- The Goals of Assessment
  - Motivation and Learning
  - Student Feedback
  - Teacher Feedback
• Norm-Referenced
  – Students are compared against one another’s performance
  – There is an absence of criteria
  – Need large and diverse class

• Criterion-Referenced
  – Students are compared against some preset criterion
  – Provide information about strengths and weaknesses
  – Greater teach-test overlap tends to result in higher grades

Classroom Assessment
• Formal Assessments
• Informal Assessments
• Evaluating Achievement
  – Measurements
  – Evaluation
Elements of Traditional Testing

• What Material Should the Test Cover
  – Consulting Published Sources
  – Using Instructional Objectives

• The When and How of Testing
  – Give More Frequent, Shorter Tests
  – Consider Testing Conditions
  – Ensure Clear Directions

Ways To Measure Student Learning: Written Tests

• Selected response tests: “Objective”
  – Multiple Choice, T-F, Matching
  – Goal is to assess foundational knowledge
  – Advantages include:
    • Efficient, easy, reliable scoring
  – Disadvantages include:
    • Focuses on memorization, does not ask student to apply/use learning
Developing Objective Test Questions

- Multiple-Choice Items
- True/False Items
- Matching Items
- Fill-In-The-Blank Items
- Short Answer
- Evaluate Objective Items

Ways To Measure Student Learning: Written Tests

- Short Answer Tests
  - Student is asked to supply from memory a brief response
  - Goal is to assess foundational knowledge
  - Advantages include:
    - Efficient, easy, reliable scoring
  - Disadvantages include:
    - Lack of depth in answers, plausible but unexpected answers may be hard to score
Ways To Measure Student Learning: Written Tests

• Essay Tests
  – Goal is to assess depth of knowledge
  – Advantages include:
    • Reveal how well students can recall, organize, and communicate information.
    • Assess higher-level abilities such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
  – Disadvantages include:
    • Consistency in grading can be difficult
    • Limited number of questions can be asked.

Developing Essay Tests

• When to Use Essay Tests
• Subjective
• Expectations
• Writing Essay Questions
• Grading
Ways To Measure Student Learning: Performance Tests (Authentic Assessment)

- Require students to use knowledge and/or skills in a realistic and applied way.
- Measure what students *can do*, rather than what they *know*.
- Types include:
  - Portfolios, Exhibitions, Demonstrations, and (Maybe) Direct Writing Assessments

Performance Tests: Things to Consider

- Active Responding
- Complex Problems
- Degree of realism
- Scoring Rubrics
- Teach-Test Overlap

- Reliability and Validity have not been established
Grading and Reporting

- The Impact of Grades
- General Grading Guidelines
  - Base Grades on Multiple Sources
  - Comply with School Rules
  - Only Grade when Necessary
  - Consider How Much Feedback is Needed
  - Explain the System Clearly
  - Grades Must be Made Available

Grading Systems

- Total-Point System
- Percentage Grading System